

Testimony of;
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Hello. My name is Colt Szczygiel. I'm here again testifying because of the oath I took when joining the Marine Corps, to defend the Constitution. 8 years in the Marines gave me a true love for my country, and the rights that were granted to me when I was born here. My deployments took me to some of the most war torn parts of the world, and taught me not to take those rights for granted, as most Americans do. I take great pride in the fact that I spent 2 years of my life in Iraq, helping those people regain freedom. But that pride is shattered when the government who sent me there, now wants to take rights away from me, and my fellow Americans.

Raising the age to buy a rifle, I find EXTREMELY disrespectful to me and my fellow servicemen. You are saying at 18 years old, I was old enough to carry a rifle while patrolling the streets of Fallujah, but I'm not old enough to have one at home to defend my home and enjoy at the range? And the rifle I would own at home is nothing like the one I carried into combat.

The proposed "Act concerning the reduction of gun violence" will do nothing to reduce gun violence at all. Will these added features to the proposed definition of an "assault rifle" make them less lethal? No, they will not. How would keeping a law abiding citizen from buying ammo online stop gun violence? It's nothing but feel good legislation.

Banning so called "high capacity" magazines is another feel good law. Sounds great to limit the amount of ammunition in a gun! But who will suffer from this? Law abiding gun owners. You think a criminal is going to pick up his already illegal gun, and change the magazine to only 10 rounds? They won't! Then I will be stuck with only 10 rounds to keep my family safe. And what if there is more than one bad guy? Many times there are! I've had to reload while under attack to protect myself, and it is not a good feeling.

Why are Connecticut firearm owners being punished for the act of one insane criminal? The proposed legislation will limit the ability to defend my family, and enjoy my freedom. Why? Because you are treating me as a guilty man for crimes I didn't commit. If even 1 law is passed further stripping my rights, my family and I will leave this state. Other places in the country welcome law abiding gun owners. And guess what? Those places are safer, have more jobs, and taxes are much lower.

I've attended many meetings and hearings on the laws being proposed. Many on the other side of the debate want you to think of the victims of gun violence. I ask you to think of all the fallen servicemen. My friend and team leader Jordan Pierson from Milford was killed in action when we were in Fallujah in 2006, along with 3 other brave Marines of Charlie Company. They gave their lives defending our rights, and now you want to take them away. They would not approve of this!

Use facts, not feelings, when you vote on proposed laws. Semper Fidelis!